GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:82
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
GI Tag for Basmati Rice
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has applied for Geographical Indication (GI) tag for basmati rice;
b) if so, the details thereof along with its present status and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;
c) whether Pakistan has challenged this application; and
d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a & b) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) had applied for Geographical Indication (GI) tag for basmati rice. Certificate for Registration of Basmati rice as a GI has been issued on 15th February, 2016 by GI Registry in Chennai based on the application filed by APEDA on 26th November, 2008.

Registration as GI protects the right of growers in traditional growing areas to use the term 'Basmati' for rice grown by them which is from one of the varieties notified as Basmati under the Seeds Act. Registration gives exclusive right to the authorized users, for use of the term Basmati rice for the rice of Basmati varieties, grown in the GI area.

Subsequent to this registration, use of term Basmati rice by parties other than authorized users and/or for the rice grown outside GI area is illegal. The registration as GI gives APEDA (registered proprietor) and the authorized users the right to obtain relief in respect of infringement in the manner provided by the GI Act. The inflow of non-authentic rice in the supply chain of Basmati would be checked which, is expected to help better price realization for the authorized users of Basmati GI that would include farmers, millers and traders/exporters both in domestic and international markets.

(c & d) The application of APEDA was opposed by Basmati Growers Association (BGA) Lahore (Pakistan). However, BGA did not file its evidence in GI Registry within the period prescribed under the GI Rules. Accordingly, vide order dated 31st December, 2013 the GI Registry treated the opposition by BGA as abandoned. This decision has been upheld by Intellectual Property Appellate Board by their order dated 05th February, 2016.
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